7/16/73

Dear Roy,

When I drove my wife into town to her job this morning, one of my larger time-consumers, I picked my mail up at the post office. With no word from you, I presume Dr. Gross has not returned and you have no word. So, before the broadcast of the hearings begin, this hasty updating for you.

I have written about 15,000, perhaps 20,000 words, aside from more of the notes and snatches of what will be incorporated in the draft.

The complete plans for Nixon's gestapo are being xeroxed for me. It is of these that I phoned you. Hopefully, I will be able to get them this week. (Increasingly, Establishmentarians and Republican leaders are using this word, "gestapo".)

No hankypanky, but I have a set of proofs of Hunt's book on the Bay of Pigs. When I add it to what was in my files, it adds much.

And in going over my old Nixon files and some of those directly bearing on The Watergate, something even more sensational that I told you has emerged.

Meanwhile, the analyst in me sees the outlines of a coming "fix" signalled by a number of coinciding developments, one being John Mitchell's self-casting into the function of lightening rod. What the Senate committee and the special prosecutor are and are not doing bear on this. The special prosecutor has withheld some evidence from me that under the law he may not do. I have filed with him the papers preliminary to going into federal court to get these papers. Such a suit would have the possibility of getting attention. It would require that he justify this withholding of material already released, but to those who are not equipped to fully understand it.In court. Or deliver it to me, which would make rather nice material for a facsimile appendix.

I have been trying to keep up with what can be competitive books in Germany. There really is only one serious one, by the Washington Post reporters. I spoke to one of them last Wednesday. He does not expect to complete the draft this year. The earliest possible date, from publisher sources, is three months after the final end of the Senate hearings. They will, about then, have a draft. It will also be a reporterial book, repeating what is published, mostly what they published in the papers.

There are several other books contracted, but they are not Watergate books. One is on Nixon, another on the state of justice, things like that. Hunt's is on the Bay of Pigs only. He has added a single footnote on The Watergate, without explaining what it is or means or that he was in any way part of it or is in jail because of it, etc. In that footnote he says that Fiorini, under the name Sturgis, was later "a Watergate defendant!" He doesn't even footnote Barker this way. It is a lousy job on the Bay of Pigs, too. Poorly done, excessively defensive and dishonest, with incredibly bad editing With regard to simple things, like full names. It is written for the more extreme of the radical rights, particularly Kennedy haters, of whom he surely is one! But because of his tunnel-vision mind, it is helpful to me if not to history. As I hope you will soon see.

Meanwhile, although I am still in some respects uncertain, the organization is taking clearer shape in my mind.

Hope to hear from you soon,

sincerely,